save it over again? If that was a glorious victory fit to be celebrated, England's awakening, why procure another victory, dearly bought with life and limb and sorrowful partings?

IV

Both MacDonald and Mr. Baldwin were insistent that the National Government was a temporary expedient. 'Conservatives have consented to take part in the National Government for a limited period,' Mr. Baldwin said, "but there is no question of a permanent coalition.' The Liberals alone kept quiet, like uninvited guests at a reception effacing themselves and taking up their station near the buffet. With the exception of the *Daily Herald* and the *Manchester Guardian,* the Government had the enthusiastic approval of the whole Press, though the *Morning Post* relieved its feelings by, for a few weeks, referring to MacDonald as ᶜtitular' Premier.

MacDonald himself showed certain symptoms of uneasiness. The very completeness of his victory abashed him a little. His new admirers were so enthusiastic, and his old ones, with a very few exceptions, so uniformly hostile. It was all very well for *The Times* to write that he had 'gained the reward of those who dare greatly and win through'; but what precisely was his reward to be when he came to claim it ?

To reassure himself, he visited Seaham Harbour, a scattered and desolate mining constituency which had returned him at the last general election with a majority of nearly 30,ooo.[10] 'Do not,'

[10] MacDonald inherited this constituency from. Sidney Webb, who had

represented it in Parliament before he became Lord Passfield. When he handed it over to MacDonald, he mentioned that most of the collieries there were owned by Lord Londonderry, whose agents were far from popular among Labour voters. Any personal relations between MacDonald and the Londonderry family would, therefore, be a disadvantage as far as his candidature was concerned. This, MacDonald said, was awkward, as he was already *on Christian name terms' with them. In the National Government, Lord Londonderry succeeded Mr. Lansbury at the Office of Works, later becoming Air Minister. Lady Londonderry has described in her volume of